

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 01051 021351Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
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AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO  
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1051

SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, NO, UR  
SUBJECT: SVALBARD DEVELOPMENTS

REF: OSLO 191

1. SVALBARD HEARINGS PROCEDURES. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USSR COMPANY "ARIKUGOL", THE OPERATORS OF THE SOVIETS' COAL MINE ON SVALBARD, WERE IN OSLO FEBRUARY 27 AND 28 FOR DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED GON FISHING AND HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR THE SVALBARD REGION. THE DISCUSSIONS ARE THE LATEST STEPS IN A PROCESS THAT BEGAN WHEN THE GON, AS PART OF ITS HEARINGS PROCEDURES, CIRCULATED THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS TO ALL LAND-OWNERS ON SVALBARD. (THE DECISION TO INFORM ONLY LANDOWNERS, OF WHOM THERE ARE ONLY TWO GROUPS, I.E. NORWEGIAN AND  
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PAGE 02 OSLO 01051 021351Z

SOVIET, WAS TAKEN BY THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY WITHOUT CONSULTING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE MFA PREFERENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN THE NOTIFICATION OF ALL CONCESSION HOLDERS, A FAR LARGER GROUP.) THE SOVIETS HAD INITIALLY REPLIED THAT THE PROMULGATION OF THE PROPOSED HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS WOULD BE AN INFRINGEMENT OF THEIR TREATY RIGHTS AND THEREFORE UN-ACCEPTABLE.

2. THE SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN THE OSLO MEETING CONSISTED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ARIKUGOL AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN OSLO, DCM V.V. MAKAROV AND L.A. MAKAROV, WHO CARRIES THE TITLE OF FIRST SECRETARY BUT IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES. NEITHER OF THE MAKAROV'S REPORTEDLY SPOKE DURING THE MEETINGS, BUT, RATHER, APPEARED TO BE MONITORING THE EVENTS.

3. ACCORDING TO POLAR ADVISOR OLAV BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN, THE MEETING DID NOT RESOLVE THE BASIC QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE SOVIET INVOCATION OF THEIR TREATY RIGHTS. THE MEETINGS CONSISTED LARGELY OF A DISCUSSION OF THE SPECIFIC HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS. THE SOVIETS CONCLUDED, BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN SAID, BY STATING THAT THEY "HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO FIND A SOLUTION."

4. THE NEXT STEP, BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN SAID, CALLS FOR THE GON TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BOTH THE SPECIFIC SOVIET OBJECTIONS AND THOSE OF THE NORWEGIAN COMMUNITY, MANY OF WHOSE MEMBERS ARE UNHAPPY TO HAVE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THEIR HUNTING AND FISHING. SUBSEQUENTLY, BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN SAID, IT IS HIS OPINION THAT THE GON HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO PUT THE REGULATIONS INTO EFFECT. HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD OBEY THE REGULATIONS WHILE CONTINUING TO REFUSE TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 01051 021351Z

ACKNOWLEDGE THE GON RIGHT TO PROMULGATE THEM.

5. SOVIET HELICOPTER WRECK: THE GON HAS PREPARED AND SENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION AND TO USSR AUTHORITIES A REPORT ON THE AUGUST 5, 1977 CRASH OF A SOVIET HELICOPTER ON SVALBARD. THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT THE REFUSAL OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO COOPERATE IN THE GON INVESTIGATION OF THE CRASH WAS CONTRARY TO NORWEGIAN LAW AND THAT THE REMOVAL OF PORTIONS OF THE WRECKAGE WAS SIMILARLY IMPERMISSIBLE. BUCH-JOHANNESSEN STATED THAT, WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE REPORT CITING THE SOVIET VIOLATIONS, THE GON WOULD NOT PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER.

6. SVEA PROJECT: BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN CONFIRMED RECENT PRESS REPORTS OF FURTHER DELAYS IN THE OPENING OF THE SVEA MINE. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN PROBLEMS WITH THE RESEARCH WORK, AS WELL AS PROBLEMS WITH WATER SEEPAGE BELOW THE PERMAFROST LINE AND EQUIPMENT BREAKDOWNS, ALL OF WHICH HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT'S DELAY. HE POINTED OUT THAT, WITH THE EXPECTED TIGHTENING OF NORWAY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION, THERE IS APT TO BE OPPOSITION FROM OTHER GON AGENCIES TO THE USE OF FUNDS FOR THE SVEA PROJECT. HE SUGGESTED THAT A

PUBLIC US STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT MIGHT  
HELP THE MFA IN OVERCOMING SUCH INTERNAL GON OPPOSITION.  
BREMER

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## Message Attributes

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